

UNCLASSIFIED **BI 050**

TELEGRAM

CN 1871
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INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

File

513

FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

INFO:

GDS

SHUM, AR, PINS, TGEN

NAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE VISIT
AND WORLD CANCER CONGRESS

SECSTATE WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S2000000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part ☒ In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

BUENOS AIRES: 1871

CHARGE

POL-3

POL/R

ECON

USIS

SCI

RF

CHRON

1. SUMMARY: NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES COMMITTEE

MARCH 9

ON HUMAN RIGHTS DELEGATION LEFT/AFTER A 5 DAY VISIT

TO ARGENTINA ~~ON MARCH 9~~ WITH A MIXED IMPRESSION.

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, FROM THE PRESIDENT DOWN,

AS WELL AS ARGENTINE SCIENTISTS STRESSED TO THE NAS

GROUP THE NEED TO SEPARATE POLITICS FROM SCIENCE AND ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

THE DELEGATION

REQUESTED THAT ~~THEY~~ URGE U.S. RESEARCHERS TO PARTICIPATE

IN THE OCTOBER BUENOS AIRES WORLD CANCER CONGRESS. THE

DELEGATION'S EFFORTS TO FIND SOME "CONCRETE SIGNAL" ON

HUMAN RIGHTS ON WHICH TO BASE AN AFFIRMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

FOR THE CANCER CONGRESS FOUNDERED, HOWEVER, ON THE

GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO PROVIDE ANY ENCOURAGEMENT

REGARDING THE RELEASE OF DETAINED PHYSICIST, ELENA SEVILLA

DRAFTED BY:

POL:FAHarris:eg

DRAFTING DATE

3/10/78

TEL. EXT.

278

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POL:WHHallman

CLEARANCES:

SCI:CMetzner

DCM:MChaplin

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OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

50153-101

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50/52

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MRN

(213/77/11), AND THE DISAPPEARANCE DURING ~~THEIR~~ STAY OF A

NOTED ARGENTINE BLOOD SPECIALIST, DR. BEATRIZ ROSALIA

IPARRAGUIRRE DE WEINSTEIN ~~XXXXXXXX~~ (BUENOS AIRES 1791). ^{END} SUMMARY

2. THE NAS GROUP MADE UP OF NOBEL LAUREATE CHRISTIAN ANFINSSEN, DNA RESEARCHER ROBERT PERRY AND NAS STAFFER JAY DAVENPORT, ARRIVED IN ARGENTINA SEEKING WAYS TO FACILITATE DIALOGUE BETWEEN AMERICAN AND ARGENTINE SCIENTISTS. ANFINSSEN, IN PARTICULAR, SAW THE DELEGATION'S MISSION AS ONE OF SEEKING SOME POSITIVE SIGNALS FROM THE GOA WHICH WOULD ALLOW HIS COMMITTEE TO ENCOURAGE AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND DOCTORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UPCOMING WORLD CANCER CONFERENCE. A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE GROUP WAS TO OBTAIN THE FREEDOM OF A YOUNG
ELENA
PHYSICIST, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ SEVILLA, WHO IS BEING HELD UNDER EXECUTIVE ARREST WITHOUT CHARGES IN VILLA DEVOTO PRISON.

3. ~~THE~~ ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GROUP WERE MADE THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE GROUP MET WITH THE PRESIDENT, FORMIN UNDERSECRETARY ALLARA, MINISTER OF EDUCATION CATALAN, LEADING ARGENTINE RESEARCHERS AND SCIENTIFIC GROUPS, THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD CANCER CONGRESS AND FAMILIES OF DISAPPEARED ARGENTINE SCIENTISTS AND SOME MOTHERS FROM THE PLAZA DE MAYO. THE GROUP WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO MEET WITH MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY NOR TO VISIT MS. SEVILLA.

4. THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA WAS BOTH A HIGHLIGHT AND

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A DISAPPOINTMENT. THE GROUP SAW THE PRESIDENTIAL MEETING AS A CLEAR SIGNAL OF THE IMPORTANCE THE GOA ATTACHES TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CANCER CONGRESS. ALTHOUGH THE CONGRESS HAS 4,000 REGISTRATIONS OF A POSSIBLE MAXIMUM OF 6,000 ATTENDEES, A GREAT MANY OF ~~THESE~~ THE LEADING RESEARCHERS IN THE U.S. AND FRANCE HAVE DECIDED TO BOYCOTT THE CONGRESS. IN THE DELEGATION'S MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, THEY RECEIVED A SEVEN MINUTE LECTURE ON THE NEED TO SEPARATE SCIENCE FROM POLITICS, THE SERIOUS TERRORIST THREAT ARGENTINA FACED BEFORE THE ARMED FORCES TAKEOVER, AND THE IMPROVED CONDITIONS FOR ALL NOW IN ARGENTINA. THE GROUP STATED ITS APPRECIATION OF THE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH THE GOA HAD OVERCOME AND EXPRESSED ~~THEIR~~ ITS CONCERN REGARDING PERSONS BEING PUNISHED FOR THEIR IDEOLOGY, SUCH AS MS. SEVILLA. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT PERSONS WHO PROVIDED "MISINFORMATION" WERE DANGEROUS PLOTTERS EVEN THOUGH THEY DID NOT COMMIT ACTS OF TERRORISM. ELENA SEVILLA WAS THE ~~ASSERTED~~ "CONCUBINE", VIDELA ~~ASSERTED~~, OF A TERRORIST AND WAS THUS IMPLICATED.

5. ON MARCH 9, THE GROUP WAS ASKED BY DR. WEINSTEIN, HUSBAND OF NOTED BLOOD SPECIALIST BEATRIZ ROSALIA IPARRAGUIRRE DE WEINSTEIN--WHO HAD BEEN ABDUCTED IN A NIGHTTIME OPERATION THE NIGHT BEFORE--TO INTERVENE IN HER CASE. THE GROUP WAS MOVED BY THE REQUEST AND HELD A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH THE FONMIN ~~EX~~ JUST PRIOR TO ITS DEPARTURE.

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